



Respect and Manners

Submitted By: Steve Dolezal

We as dog handlers and dog lovers learn to let ourselves overlook things that our dogs do because we love them and may think its cute. But not all people feel the same way towards animals so it's our responsibility to keep our dogs in check while training and while on deployments. Most people love to come and pet our dogs and play with them, it makes them feel good, especially during down time or after a traumatic and long rescue. But they also expect the handler to remember certain areas where dogs would be watched very closely or not allowed at all. Some of those may be, eating area, dogs may go and beg for food and many team members will give them some without thinking anything about it, others will be offended. But dogs should be fed away from the mess area. Don't let dog's drink from water fountains or other drinking containers that people may drink from, bring a bowl for them. Another area would be sleeping areas we may have to sleep in the same areas as other members and a dog roaming around, smelling, barking, whining, etc. may cause the other members a lack of sleep. A kennel may be needed to keep the dog calm during a sleep period. Also the exercise area, a dog needs to relieve themselves and we need to make sure that it's in an area roped off and identified just for this. Also just because it's roped off doesn't mean you can let droppings lay, bring baggies to pick up the droppings and place those into a trash can identified just for those in the exercise area. And finally keep an eye on other dogs and there space, dogs can be very defensive and want to protect themselves and their owners. Aggressive dogs will not be allowed to deploy but may be around the training areas. If your dog is aggressive toward other dogs or people you are responsible to keep them in a safe area and to teach them how not to be. And if your dog wanders off their leash, they need to be kept away from other dogs who may be protective of themselves or owners. Search dogs are one of the most admired parts of our team and with proper discipline a search dog will be a welcome part to our team.

Type II Test

NE-TF1 will be hosting a Type II Test in Lincoln on September 29 - October 1, 2000. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact:

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Springfield, MO 65804
Email: dittodog@juno.com
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Submission of Items for the "Canine Bulletin"...

Please mail submissions to:

Julie Marget
Lincoln Fire Department
1801 'Q' Street
Lincoln, NE 68508

E-mail:
jmarget@ci.lincoln.ne.us

Fax: 441-8292

Address/Phone # Changes
Contact: Julie or Sandy @ LFD Fire
Administration (402) 441-7363



The following appears in the latest issue of Dog Talk, an unofficial FEMA Dog Handlers. The entire issue of Dog Talk will be posted on <http://www.vatf1.org>

FEMA K9 Sub-Committee Report

The Canine Sub-Committee has recently returned from its annual face-to-face meeting in Reno, Nevada. Before you start thinking about how much fun we had, remember that we are DOG handlers and we were there SANS DOGS. As fellow handlers, you know it is against our nature to sit and talk for three days-we are movers and doers! First of all, we are excited to announce that OFFICIAL communication should significantly improve as we will soon be posting test announcements, special events and rosters (with limited personal info) of certified teams and evaluators on the FEMA web-site. We will still use the DOGTALK forum, so as to be unrestricted by unnecessary political correctness, but look to the fema.gov web-site for official information. You will also find on the web-site for your review and possible use, a screening package for canines and handlers, the handler interview designed to be administered by a Search Team Manager. This process was developed to assist Task Forces in identifying potential candidates for the Canine Search Specialist training program. It is by no means mandatory and if anyone has suggestions or uses a different selection method, please share. I'm sure we all agree that it's important to screen teams so that the training process is expeditious, given the limited working life of our canines. The committee addressed the Canine Specialist Course book in an effort to update it and ensure that a uniform course is given nationally. We also attempted to update evaluator rosters. Some of you may be contacted for current information. Lists of certified teams will be updated quarterly and posted on the web. This will do two things-it will make you proud if you are on it and it will also provide an opportunity for Task Forces who may be short on certified teams to borrow from neighboring Task Forces for deployment. As the Fall approaches and tests are being announced, the committee has been asked to interpret some ambiguities (inconsistencies?) in the evaluation process. We began addressing the questions in this issue of DOGTALK. Remember that the interpretations are a consensus of the Sub-Committee, not necessarily the opinions of each individual. We try to keep in mind the spirit of the test, which is to ensure that teams are deployed who are able to help locate live victims safely and efficiently. With that in mind: Question #1-How long is the grace period to maintain certification? Though it may seem unfair in some instances, the expired team will be removed from the roster if it fails to pass the next available test, wherever it may be. Question #2-How long is a pre-test valid? We recommend that a pre-test is good for approximately 6 months. Question #3-Can a handler use a clicker during an evaluation? Only when communication is permitted. Question #4-If a canine is certified with 2 handlers, how often does the canine re-certify? The team certifies as a team and must re-cert every 2 years as a team, which may result in a lucky dog testing more often than that. Question #5-What are the rules for the team who has only the rubble portion of the test left to complete? No room for interpretation here. The standards are written in such a way that if the team has the approval of their TF, then they need only take the rubble portion of the test, regardless of where it is hosted.

Teresa MacPherson, Secretary
Canine SubCommittee - 9/2/00



Training Logs Submission:

Mail or Drop off Logs to:
Sandy Yost
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Canine
Bulletin



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